WlTKZ

The Spark Gap

NOVEMBER 1984

Book IX Vol XI

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

Hereabouts...

November is the month for the ARRL Sweepstakes contest, which WlTKZ has entered as a multioperator station for many years. The tradition will continue this year on November 17-18.

Bob Drapeau, KTlK, has been organizing the preparations and has once again secured permission to raise a tower and antenna for the weekend so we should have a decent signal.

If you are interested in operating, and especially if you have never operated a contest before and would like to learn, please plan on coming down any time between Saturday noon and Sunday evening (yes, we will be there all night). For more information, contact Bob Drapeau at 883-1132.

REPEATER

by Tom Kinahan, NlCPE

This month we have progress to report. We have ordered our new repeater. At this time we expect to have it towards the end of November. There still is the matter of paying for it. We are doing well in that department but still have a long way to go. For a donation of $100 or more to the repeater fund, there will be a repeater function named after you. But if this is a little too rich for your blood, anything will help to defray the cost of the machine. We are still in the hole more than a few hundred dollars so please keep us going.

Public Service

On Sunday, October 14, the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society once again provided assistance with the Wellesley Veterans Parade. In addition to providing communications between officials around the staging area and at the reviewing stand, we once again helping lining up the marchers and floats. Although there was some confusion as there always is, the parade went off well and the organizers were happy with our efforts.

The parade, which lasted almost two hours, looked very good going by the reviewing stand despite all the confusion at the start. The changes in parade order were all correctly passed over the repeater so the announcer could correctly identify each unit as it passed. The club was given a nice mention in the official parade program, thanking us for our help.

Helping out this year were: C.J. McDonald, WBlBUM; Tom Kinahan, NlCPE; Ken McNair, NlDEZ; Skid Schermerhorn, WlTTY; Gary Weissel, KAlJWE; Art Thompson, KAlENP; Bob Drapeau, KTlK; and Nels Anderson, KlUR.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

November 1, 1984, at 7:30 p.m.
November 15, 1984, at 7:30 p.m.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

Auctions / Flea Markets

November 17: The Honeywell 1200 Radio Club/Waltham ARA annual auction, held at Honeywell, 300 Concord Road, Billerica. Take Route 3 to the Concord Road exit then left (north) at the end of the exit and look for signs. Check-in starts at 10:00 a.m., auction at 11:00. Commission 15%, $1 minimum, $30 maximum. Food is available plus large parts store. Talk in on 147.72/12 or 146.04/64.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Number 79, dated September 21, 1984:

The new edition of the ARRL Net Directory is now available. Listing over 1200 public service nets by location and frequency, as well as many computer and maritime service nets, this newly revised booklet is also packed with information on all the basics of traffic handling and net operation. You may obtain a copy by sending a self-addressed 9x12 inch envelope with 88 cents postage to the ARRL Net Directory, 225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111.

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Number 89, dated October 10, 1984:

In response to an ARRL petition, FCC today issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, PR Docket 84-959, that, if adopted, would permit A4, A5, F1, F3, F4 and F5 on the 160 meter band. A1 and A3 are the only modes currently authorized for this band. Comment deadline is December 20, 1984.

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Number 91, dated October 11, 1984:

FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, PR Docket 84-960, on October 10 proposing the allocation of additional frequencies to the Amateur Service, as follows. The entire 10.100 to 10.150 MHz segment would be available to Generals and above, on a primary basis subject to the condition that no interference is caused to fixed services outside the U.S., and no special power limit is proposed. FCC has also announced that during the pendency of the proceeding, the entir 10.100 to 10.150 MHz band is temporarily available to U.S. Amateurs, A and F1 modes, with a 200 watt P.E.P. output limit. FCC has proposed the ARRL plan for A1 and F1 on 24.890 to 24.930 MHz, and A1, A3, A4, A5, F3, F4, F5 on 24.930 to 24.990 MHz, General and above, on a primary basis subject to the condition that no interference is caused to fixed and mobile services outside the U.S. Amateurs will also be sharing the 24.890 to 24.990 MHz band with some U.S. Government fixed operations for the next several years. FCC has proposed to make 902 to 928 MHz available to U.S. Amateurs, Technician and above, except for those Amateurs in Colorado, Wyoming, and U.S. possessions in Region 3. FCC has also stated that certain government fixed operations on 18 MHz precludes Amateur access to this band prior to 1989. Other matters, including 420 to 430 MHz operation along the Canadian border, are addressed in the NPRM. Comments on this proposal are due at FCC on December 17, 1984.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Nels Anderson, K1UR, 872-5259
VICE PRESIDENT:
David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450
RECORDING SECRETARY:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
Allan Bacon, K1BA, 749-4382
TREASURER:
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091
FUND RAISING:
Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, 242-0341
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:
Volunteer Needed!
EDUCATION CHAIRMAN:
Volunteer Needed!
STATION MANAGER:
Bob Drapeau, KT1K, 883-1132
REPEATER COMMITTEE:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

EDITOR:

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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $8.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

MINUTES

Meeting of October 4, 1984:

Meeting opened at 7:45 p.m. by K1UR. Introductions.

Secretary's report was read - accepted.

Treasurer's report was read - accepted.

Repeater comittee report given by N1CPE. We now have coordination for a link frequency on 438.425. We have ordered and paid for the new 2 meter repeater with delivery expected in 45 to 60 days.

Education report by N1CPE on the fate of our General class. Announced there was going to be one this fall with Volunteer exams given at the conclusion. All were asked to sign up to teach.

Report from Station Manager that the old oak tree that we had once tied club dipole to is being taken down. Some discussion.

Veterans Parade was mentioned by K1UR - people needed.

KT1K looking into possible message fair sites. Natick Mall, Framingham Mall, or possibly waiting until Valentines day were discussed.

Business Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Meeting of October 18, 1984:

Meeting opened at 7:50 p.m. by K1UR.

Secretary's Report accepted.

Treasurer's Report accepted.

KT1K - Still looking into sites for Message Fair.

- Generated formal messages for 2 meter traffic nets announcing both Novice exams that are given on the first Monday of each month and for General Class coming up starting on November 14.

- W1TKZ will operate ARRL Sweepstakes this year from the Red Cross building the weekend of November 17-18. Contest begins at 2100Z (4:00 p.m. local), setup begins at 1:30 local at the Red Cross on November 17. We have secured permission to erect a temporary tower and tribander during the contest. We have recently learned, due to some mailing errors possibly at the League, that W1TKZ was 1st place Multiop and 1st place high power in Eastern Mass. last year. Let's have a repeat of that this year.

- The club dipole is becoming a problem. The tree we had used in the past is coming down. Having looked the situation over, there is no good place to re-install the dipole. Should we investigate a vertical?

- Could we start a Novice class in some local school? There seems to be

some interest by local schools to have outside people in to teach various activities.

KA1IU - Inquiries from traffic handlers regarding our message fair using Packet Radio. Depends on space. There are a number of Packet enthusiasts in our club.

N1CPE - Looking for people for EME contest October 20 and 21.

General - Comments regarding Veterans Parade. Suggestions for improvement were offered.

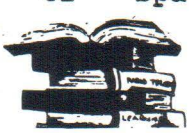
- Head of the Charles Regatta this Sunday, October 21, need additional people.

- KA1LQK offered to supply beam heading maps to any and all who desire one for $7 below the $7 price offered by others. Contact Mike.

Meeting closed at 8:40 p.m.

Program: Slide show of Space Shuttle was shown by K1BA.

education corner



Our annual fall General class is a little late getting started this year, but will be held beginning this month. Classes will be held every Wednesday night at the club starting on November 14 and running for twelve sessions. Classes will start at 7:00 p.m. There will be breaks during the holiday seasons, resulting in completion late in January. We intend to conclude with a Volunteer Exam testing session for class members and anyone else interested in upgrading.

As in the past, a number of club members have signed up to teach one or two classes each, thus spreading the load around. There are still a few nights left and if you would like to help out it would be appreciated. To volunteer or for any information about the class, contact Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, at 653-0641.

Several club members have also volunteered to conduct Novice exams the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. These will be held in the Wellesley Red Cross building. There is no appointment necessary.

ANNOUNCEMENT

An invitation to the members of the American Radio Relay League, New England Division:

Two League planning meetings (an ARRL town meeting) will be held during the month of November. Here is your opportunity to discuss Amateur Radio and the American Radio Relay League, it's plans and programs. The ARRL New England Division Director, John Sullivan, W1HHR, and Vice-Director Rick Beebe, K1PAD, will host these forums. Please try to attend.

November 3rd, from 1 to 5 p.m. in Kingston (Plymouth), Mass. Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, Main Street, Kingston, Mass.

November 9th, from 7 to 10 p.m. in South Merrimack, N.H. Digital Equipment building west of the Exit 8 toll gate on Route 3.

CHUCKLE KORNER

MARTIANS EXAMINE EARTH

by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

On October 1, 1984, a signal was heard on 2301.0 MHz and later on 2304.0 MHz with doppler shift. At the time there were a number of Hams looking into determining just where and what this supposed satellite was doing and how it got there. We here at the SPARK GAP offices have recently learned that the offending signal was in reality a Martian scout ship, looking into the intelligence (or lack of it) on the Amateur bands at 2300 MHz. We also have exclusive reports that they found little intelligence there.

We now have confirmation that the carrier was an attempt to contact any Amateur station on this band and that the mode of communication was one that has yet to be invented on Earth. It seems that the Martian hams don't have to learn morse code to get a ticket. As a result, the Martians have severe band overcrowding and needed some

spectrum to put their equivalent of our CB. Since their experiments, the Martian Communications Commission (MCC) has allocated the 2300 - 2400 MHz band encircling the Earth for the Martian Band (MB).

This Extra - Terrestrial allocation has infuriated the Governments of the Earth but there seems to be no recourse. All we can do is to live with the results and once this band becomes used, to keep a communications channel open between the FCC and the MCC.

Keep abreast of all the MCC - FCC discussion in future issues of the SPARK GAP.

It Seems to Me...

by Bob Drapeau, KT1K
adapted from ARRL press release

From time to time we as Amateurs are confronted with that "big question". IS THAT A CB? Well how do you answer that question? Do you get defensive and respond quickly? This is an opportunity to really educate regarding the real differences concerning the two radio services. After all, the person at least has enough knowledge to recognize the fact that we are communicating via radio and you may have found yourself a new ham. Let's look at a list of differences:

LICENSING. Ham: Technical, code and regulatory exams. Both operator and station licensed. CB: None.

IDENTIFICATION ON AIR. Ham: Call sign assigned by the FCC. On air ID required. CB: No call sign. Nickname used as ID.

CALLSIGNS. Ham: One or two letter prefix indicates country, number for region, letter suffix. Amateur callsigns are unique identifiers, no two are alike. CB: None.

REGISTRATION PLATE. Ham: Massachusetts has recognized the public service of hams and will provide distinctive auto license plates. CB: Not provided.

FREQUENCIES. Ham: Internationally allocated. Broad range of frequencies in segments throughout the radio spectrum. CB: Restricted to 40 channels.

MODES OF COMMUNICATION. Ham: Operator's choice. Voice, morse code, radioteletype, television, repeaters, computer, satellite, moonbounce and experimental forms. CB: Restricted to voice and one way remote control.

USES PERMITTED. Ham: Hobby communications, scientific experimentation, public service. Business prohibited. CB: Business and casual conversation. No experimentation.

POWER PERMITTED. Ham: Up to 1500 watts output depending on class of license, modes and frequencies used. CB: 4 to 12 watts depending on mode.

RANGE. Ham: Worldwide and into space. Limited only by radio conditions and current technology. CB: Local only. Contacts in excess of 150 miles prohibited by law.

So you see we as Hams have a lot to offer to anyone interested in communicating via radio. Let's not get defensive. Let's not get mad. Let's answer their questions with plenty of information and facts so they will really know what Amateur Radio is all about. Don't stop there. Invite any interested people to a club meeting or give them a demonstration of some of the differences. Who knows you may be responsible for a new call sign showing up on the bands.

Hamnews

The battle over the top half of the 160 meter band goes on. Offshore Navigation (ONI), a company that provides radiolocation service to the offshore oil industry and others, has filed in opposition to ARRL's last filing. ONI argues that ARRL's petition addresses questions that have been settled in earlier proceedings related to WARC implementation. ONI also argues that the FCC cannot examine the MF needs of radiolocation in a vacuum and that Amateur Radio should also be forced to document its needs for MF spectrum. The proceedings are PR Docket 84-874.

ARRL Letter, October 11, 1984

EVENTS

Were you at the 1984 New England Division ARRL Convention? A lot of W.A.R.S. members were. The convention, held at the Sheraton-Boxboro convention center on September 29-30 was well attended, with over 3000 paid admissions.

As usual, the club had a spot in the flea market area which was used as a meeting point as much as anything else. Quite a few people did bring something to sell. We were also selling the repeater maps that were available at the last club meeting and ended up selling 75 of them, which will help out the club treasury.

Arnie Adelman, W1GCI, and Allan Bacon, K1BA, at the flea market

Overall, the flea market seemed a bit sparse, probably because it was only a week away from New England's biggest flea market in Deerfield, N.H. Still, the nice weather (exactly the opposite of what the weathermen predicted) made it a pleasant weekend outside.

Of course, the flea market is only part of the convention. Indoors there were many equipment manufacturers and dealers displaying their wares. There didn't seem to be anything really new in the way of gear though. Still, it's nice to be able to get your hands on all the latest ham gear which for most people has probably been nothing more than a picture in a magazine previously.

The other big part of the convention was the seminars. The subjects covered all aspects of Amateur Radio from packet radio to DXing to FCC doings. Certainly there was a seminar for everyone. At the ARRL forum a number of awards for individuals and clubs were given and as part of these the Spark Gap won an award as the best club newsletter in New England.

Another winner in the club was Allan Bacon, K1BA, who won both of the two foxhunts held on Saturday. There were also a large number of door prizes given away, but I don't believe anyone in the club won one of these.

The convention was a very enjoyable weekend, especially after a two year lapse since the last one.

Flea Market

Just one weekend after the Convention the fall Hosstrader's Swapfest was held in Deerfield, N.H. Despite the nice sunny (although quite cold) day on October 6, the turnout seemed much smaller than usual. It seems to me that twice a year may be too often to draw the really big crowds.

A number of club members were present, though we did not have our usual big overnight group, and we had our club table set up right near the middle of the fairgrounds. Several people sold things, the club sold a few repeater maps, and several people bought things as well. Of course, buying and selling is the whole idea of the thing, isn't it?

Otherwise, there was nothing special to report from this edition of the Hosstrader's Swapfest. If you missed this one, you will have another chance coming up in early May.